

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: September 29, 2009

Steering Group Members Present:

Patty Boyden Port of Vancouver
Pete Capell Clark County Dept. of Public Works

Public in Attendance:

Richard Raymond Environmental Chemistry, Inc.

Other Agency Members Present:

Andrew Ness Port of Vancouver

Project Management Team:

Phil Trask PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Eileen Stone PC Trask & Associates, Inc.

Project Manager Update

Phil opened the meeting and updated the group about the presentation he gave to the Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association on September 3rd regarding the Partnership's recent efforts. Andrew Ness mentioned that he felt the update was received well by the Neighborhood Association. Some of the information was technical, but critical. The newer residents were glad to be informed. Pete asked about concerns over the amount of time the research is taking prior to on-the-ground action. The opinions voiced in the Neighborhood Association meeting were that the residents valued the need to conduct research in order to make the right management decisions.

Phil discussed work on the Five Year Research Plan. PC Trask has subcontracted for technical assistance with Herrera Environmental Consultants, which required an amended contract with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership. Phil and Eileen had a productive first meeting with Rob Zisette of Herrera. In the first meeting there was discussion on how the technical assistance will proceed, as well as an in-depth discussion on the Technical Foundation's sediment study area. From this meeting we got very detailed tasks for this study area, including some prioritization of tasks and rough dollar amounts for each. Phil explained how this process is valuable in having an individual without a vested interest in the lake give the Partnership an outside perspective.

PC Trask staff will talk with Rob again during the week of October 5th regarding another Technical Report study area. The group discussed having Rob give a presentation to the Technical Group and invite Steering Group members to attend. Patty and Pete both voiced an interest in attending.

Phil gave an overview of current grant efforts. The Project Management Team submitted a pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the water balance component of the USGS work. If we are asked to submit a full proposal it will be due on November 20th. At that time we will need five reviewers to submit detailed comments on the grant proposal.

Ecology's Centennial Grant program recently held a workshop to which Eileen and Sandra Coveny (PC Trask staff) attended. The workshop was helpful in several ways, including Ecology's offer for review of draft proposals and information about the two reviewers of each proposal: the local TMDL contact (Tonnie Cummings) and a reviewer

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outside of the project area. In PC Trask's meeting with Ron Wierenga it was agreed that we will submit a proposal in the vein of collecting information that would be helpful to Ecology in development of a TMDL for Vancouver Lake.

Andrew Ness asked if the PIO group should be ready to develop a one pager on the Centennial grant proposal as was done last year for legislators. Phil and Andrew concluded that a one pager may be helpful in order to let legislators know that we will be re-applying.

Ecology staff had mentioned in the Centennial Grant workshop that letters of support from people with a vested interest in the area will be important to reviewers. The Steering Group discussed bringing up this need at the Partnership meeting, and identified residents close to the lake, the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club, and County Commissioners as a few important parties of which to request support for the proposal.

Phil discussed an early draft project budget spreadsheet in terms of proceeding forward with the proposed USGS work. It is intended to lay out funding scenarios under potential grants from NFWF and Ecology. With the grant proposals requesting funding for different aspects of the USGS proposal and for other survey work, Phil felt it was important to be able to see what funds would be coming from whom. The spreadsheet will show how much money the Partnership will be responsible for under each grant scenario.

Pete commented that it is important for the Steering Group to understand the Partnership's commitments as agencies look to begin budgeting next year for the biennium. Funds are committed for this year, but due to other budget cuts agencies will want to know what level of funding is needed for Partnership work in the future.

Phil informed the group about plans for the Alternatives Report. There has not been work on this project in the last month while the team moved forward on refining the USGS study proposal, developing grant requests and the five year research plan along with other project areas. In order to move the Alternatives Report forward in the next month, Sandra Coveny of PC Trask staff will be working on the Five Year Research Plan so that Eileen can work on the Alternatives Report. Sandra's recent watershed planning experience will be an asset for the Five Year Research Plan.

Other Information

Phil asked the Steering Group members and Mr. Richard Raymond if they had any comments. Richard Raymond was the Environmental Manager for the Vancouver Lake restoration project in the 1980s.

Richard shared his view that the proposed hydrology work is a critical first step in understanding Vancouver Lake. The role of the nutrient budget/load as a driver of lake issues is highly dependent on the lake's water residence time. Richard commented that the Columbia River hydrosystem and its reduction of peak Columbia River flows has had a significant influence on the historical depth and hydrology of Vancouver Lake.

Phil thanked Richard for his feedback, and commented that it is nice to have someone present who was involved in earlier efforts at Vancouver Lake.

Technical Group Update

Phil gave an overview of the last Technical Group meeting in August. Having more people review both the Five Year Research Plan and the Alternatives Report will give us a rigorous technical body from which to draw.

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There will be a Technical Group meeting in October and likely November to go over the Five Year Research Plan and the Alternatives Report. There will be some early draft material on each report at the next Steering Group meeting.

PIO Group Update

Andrew mentioned that he and Loretta have discussed various outreach budget scenarios. They will meet with Jeff Mize, the new Clark County PIO contact, to discuss further. There will be more to talk of in terms of a PIO budget at the Partnership meeting, but not a product.

Andrew will also talk with both Loretta and Jeff about the CVTV work and what further action can be expected.

Next Steps/Close

Planning for the next Partnership meeting

At the next Partnership meeting, Doug Quinn of Clark Public Utilities will give a presentation on Vancouver Lake Lowlands. Patty Boyden will give a brief presentation on the Port of Vancouver's remediation work.

There will also be a presentation from the Clark-Vancouver Parks Department on the full trails program as well as the two near term trails projects that will tie in to Vancouver Lake Park. Pete gave a brief overview to the group on the trails projects: development of a trail from Blue Rock to the shelter at Frenchman's Bar as well as extending the current trail along Buckmire Slough.

It was noted that October 2009 is the five year anniversary of the Partnership!

General Comments

Patty mentioned that the Port of Vancouver is working with the Parks Department to incorporate trails identified in the Vancouver Paths and Trails Master Plan into port development as appropriate.

With no further comment the meeting was closed.

Next Meetings

Full Partnership Meeting on October 21, 2009, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Steering Group Meeting on October 27, 2009, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

All meetings will be held at the Port of Vancouver Administrative Offices.